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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/826,483	04/04/2001	Randy Massengale	RKMH-1-1002	6227

25315 7590 11/06/2003

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM, PLLC
701 FIFTH AVENUE
SUITE 4800
SEATTLE, WA 98104

EXAMINER

ZHOU, TING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/826,483

Applicant(s)

MASSENGALE ET AL.

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 4 April 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: Note reference character "320" in Figure 5.
2. Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction of the above noted deficiencies (preferably in red ink) in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1, 5, 7-9, 16, 20, 22-24 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lungren et al. U.S. Patent 6,092,050.

Referring to claims 1, 16 and 32, Lungren et al. teach a server having a memory for storing project data and the ability to communicate with the server over a network (column 3, lines 33-61). They further teach a graphical user interface for project management. Specifically, the interface includes a graphical display workspace and one or more elements (segments on the pyramid), wherein each element represents an attribute of the project and the position of the elements within the workspace is indicative of the attentiveness the element requires, as seen from the pyramid in Figure 3 and further recited in column 1, line 45-55.

Referring to claims 5 and 20, Lungren et al. teach the display of the name of the project (Grantlun Corporation – Hard Dollar), as shown in Figure 2.

Referring to claims 7 and 22, Lungren et al. teach a navigational area that contains a hierarchal list of iconic folders, as shown in Figures 2 and 3.

Referring to claims 8, 23 and 30, Lungren et al. teach an editing panel for entering new tasks and editing existing ones (Figures 2 and 12).

Referring to claims 9 and 24, Lungren et al. teach icons comprised of one or more elements, as shown in Figure 2.

Referring to claim 31, Lungren et al. teach allowing access to information worksheets and forms containing project related information, as recited in column 8, lines 36-41.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-4 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lungren et al. U.S. Patent 6,092,050, as applied to claims 1 and 16 above, and further in view of Selker U.S. Patent 6,549,219.

Referring to claims 2 and 17, while Lungren et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach concentric circles representing a continuum of attentiveness. Selker teaches a graphical user interface similar to that of Lungren et al. In addition, he further teaches concentric circles (pie menu) representing a continuum of attentiveness, as recited in column 2, lines 45-50. This can also be seen in Figure 6. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lungren et al. and Selker at the time the invention was made, to modify the GUI taught by Lungren et al. to include the concentric circles of Selker. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to be able to visually represent the amount of attention different attributes need. This way, users can tell the attentiveness required by a project task by merely looking at the location of the attribute relative to the center of the circle.

Referring to claims 3 and 18, while Lungren et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach the use of wedge-shaped segments to indicate an attribute of a project or task. Selker teaches dividing the concentric circles into wedge-shaped segments, as shown in Figure 6. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lungren et al. and Selker before him at the time the invention was made, to modify

the GUI taught by Lungren et al. to include the wedge-shaped segments of Selker. It would have been advantageous for one to utilize such a combination to provide a clearer visualization of the relationship between attributes in the continuum of attentiveness. By having wedge-shaped segments, various attributes of the project can be further divided into sub-attributes.

Referring to claims 4 and 19, while Lungren et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach the coloring of the segments to indicate an attribute of a project. Selker teaches shading the segments with color to indicate the attributes of the project, as recited column 5, lines 30-33. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lungren et al. and Selker before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the GUI of Lungren et al. to include the use of color, as taught by Selker. One would have been motivated to make such a combination, to make it even easier for users to differentiate between the various attributes of the project, simply glancing at the workspace.

5. Claims 6, 10, 11, 21, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lungren et al. U.S. Patent 6,092,050, as applied to claims 1 and 16 above, and further in view of Pollalis et al. U.S. Patent 5,016,170.

Referring to claims 6 and 21, while Lungren et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach the display of a progress bar. Pollalis et al. teach a task management system similar to that of Lungren et al. In addition, Pollalis et al. further teach the display of a graphical progress bar that represents the progress towards completion of a project or task (Figures 5 and 8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lungren et al. and Pollalis et al. before him at the time the invention was made,

to modify the project management system taught by Lungren et al. to include the progress bars of Pollalis et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to allow users to see how each project task is progressing. Users can see how far towards completion each task is and how much more work needs to be done in order to complete the task.

Referring to claims 10 and 25, while Lungren et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach one or more icons being indicative of the status of the project. Pollalis et al. teach the attributes of the one or more icons (progress bars) indicating the status of the project (Figures 5 and 13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lungren et al. and Pollalis et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the project management system of Lungren et al. to include the display of the status of the project, as taught by Pollalis et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to allow users to see how each project task is progressing. Users can see how far towards completion each task is and how much more work needs to be done in order to complete the task.

Referring to claims 11 and 26, while Lungren et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach the attribute of the one or more icons being of icon size. Pollalis et al. teach the attributes of the icons (progress bars) being of icon size (Figures 5 and 13). As can be seen from the figures, the attributes of the projects are contained within the progress bars, making it of icon size. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lungren et al. and Pollalis et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the project management system of Lungren et al. to include the icon size icons taught by Pollalis et al. It would have been advantageous for one to utilize such a

combination in order to conserve space. By making attributes of the icons of icon size, less space is taken up on the graphical workspace, allowing more information to be shown to the users.

6. Claims 12-15 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lungren et al. U.S. Patent 6,092,050, as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Mansour U.S. Patent 6,035,278.

Referring to claims 12 and 27, while Lungren et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach animation as being the attribute of the one or more icons. Mansour teaches a task management method and system similar to that of Lungren et al. In addition, Mansour further teaches the use of animation to as an attribute signal, as recited in column 3, lines 60-62. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lungren et al. and Mansour before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the project management method and system of Lungren et al. to include the use of animation, as taught by Mansour. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to be able to display the progress of the elements of the project in a variety of ways. Users would be able to have several choices as to how they would like the progress of the tasks to be distinguished.

Referring to claims 13 and 28, while Lungren et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach color as being the attribute of the one or more icons. Mansour teaches the use of color as an attribute signal, as recited in column 3, lines 64-67. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lungren et

al. and Mansour before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the project management method and system of Lungren et al. to include the use of color, as taught by Mansour. It would have been advantageous for one to utilize such a combination in order to be able to display the progress of the elements of the project in a variety of ways. Users would be able to have several choices as to how they would like the progress of the tasks to be distinguished.

Referring to claims 14 and 29, while Lungren et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach sound as being the attribute of the one or more icons. Mansour teaches the use of sound as an attribute signal, as recited in column 3, lines 60-62. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lungren et al. and Mansour before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the project management method and system of Lungren et al. to include the use of sound, as taught by Mansour. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to be able to display the progress of the elements of the project in a variety of ways. Users would be able to have several choices as to how they would like the progress of the tasks to be distinguished.

Referring to claim 15, while Lungren et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to the claims above, they fail to teach an audible alarm that sounds when a threshold level has been reached. Mansour teaches an alarm feature that sounds if a threshold level of attentiveness level is reached (if certain task hours has not been completed by a predetermined time), as recited in column 5, lines 61-65. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lungren et al. and Mansour at the time the invention was made, to modify the project management system of Lungren et al. to include the use of an audible alarm, as taught by

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Mansour. It would have been advantageous for one to utilize such a combination to allow users to be notified when a certain event occurs within the lifetime of a project. The users can be easily advised of such an event, without having to physically be looking at the workspace.

7. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach electronic books with similar mechanisms for note taking and retrieval.

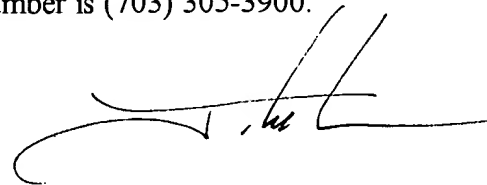
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (703) 305-0328. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

TZ
October 31, 2003



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100